Year	*Export of silk goods*
1988-89	Rs. 331 crore
1989-90	Rs. 401 crore
1990-91	Rs. 441 crore

Price Rise

1486. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has called a meeting of the representatives of the industry and trade for holding the price line down; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Meetings have been held with the representatives of the industry and trade by the Finance Minister and the Ministry of Industrial Development for seeking meaningful cooperation in bringing down prices, particularly of essential commodities, to a reasonable level. The Finance Minister held a meeting with the representatives of trade on 25th September, 1991 to discuss the modalities of price regulation in respect of commodities where excise duty concessions had been announced by the Finance Minister in the 1991-92 budget and grant of relief to the ultimate consumer in the form of reduction in prices. Both industry and trade have been asked to share the responsibility in controlling the prices. The Finance Minister had held a meeting with the cement industry on October 7, 1991 to effect a cut in cement prices. Difficulties faced by the cement industry in getting adequate supplies of coal to cement units and railway wagons for transportation of coal and cement were taken note of and efforts are being made to remove these impediments.

Salt manufacturers have agreed to hold the ex-factory prices for the next one year. The newsprint manufacturers have also agreed to absorb the cost escalation until and indepth study of the increase in the prices of newsprint is completed by the bureau of Industrial Costs and prices.

Fiscal restructuring of Economy

1487. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are effecting fiscal restructuring of the economy to back up the economic reforms; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major fiscal adjustment measures taken by the Government include: (i) a planned reduction in fiscal deficit by 2 percentage points of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from about 8.4 percent of GDP in 1990-91 (RE) to 6.5 per cent in 1991-92; (ii) disinvestment of Government equity to the extent of 20 per cent in selected public sector undertakings; (iii) abolition of cash compensatory supports for exports and sugar subsidy; (iv) substantial reduction of fertiliser subsidies; (v) containing the growth of non-plan expenditure; (vi) ensuring that 50 percent of the plan resources are invested in the agricultural and rural sectors and (vii) prioritising the projects.

Customs Duty evasion by State Trading Corporation

1488. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: